

DISPUTING THE TAB

For years, Cambridge's madcap liquor license rules left some paying nothing, some paying big — inviting unfairness and worse

By Beth Healy, Sacha Pfeiffer, and Devra First

GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — It took years of hard work for Sumiao Chen to open her own restaurant in booming Kendall Square. She navigated a pricey real estate market, lined up financing, and created a menu of authentic Hunan cuisine that's been drawing a crowd of young patrons since her summer launch.

But there's one thing she finds galling: paying \$200,000 for a liquor license that other Cambridge restaurant

owners got for free.

Chen would have loved the same deal, but it was as though she didn't know the secret handshake. Nothing on the Cambridge License Commission's website or at its offices explained how to get a free license, and Chen's advisers told her she had to try to buy one from another restaurant first.

So Chen hired a broker and wrote a big check for a license to serve drinks, while prominent chefs such as Andy Husbands and Jody Adams were scoring new licenses for nothing at restau-

LIQUOR LICENSES, Page A12



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Sumiao Chen at Sumiao Hunan Kitchen paid

\$200,000

for a liquor license with the help of a broker.



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Andy Husbands at Smoke Shop won approval for a

free

liquor license with the help of attorney James Rafferty.



BRETT CARLSEN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Dr. Jeffrey King, whose mother, Roberta King, was killed in the shooting, visited a memorial to the victims of the 2009 attack.

A TRAGEDY ECLIPSED *but not forgotten*

When one man in a high-rise can kill or injure 600, whose memory has room for the 13 killed in 2009 in a quiet N.Y. city? Locals still feel it, vividly, and recoil at how horror has become so routine.

By Mark Arsenault

GLOBE STAFF

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Before Sutherland Springs and Mandalay Bay, the Pulse nightclub and San Bernardino. Before Mother Emanuel church, the Washington Navy Yard, Sandy Hook, and Aurora. Before Gabby Giffords and Fort Hood, there was Binghamton.

In 2009, a gunman opened fire in an immigrant services center here, killing 13 men and women. At the time, it was the nation's worst mass shooting since 32 people had been killed at Virginia Tech University in 2007, and one of the deadliest in US history.

Eight years later, the world has largely forgotten about Binghamton, its tragedy turned achingly familiar by the shootings that have followed. This is far from a mournful place, and the little memorial park that residents built by the Chenango River is quiet and tasteful. But the rampage still affects the community and its people in subtle ways.

What is mainly different is inside people's heads. And while most have recovered as the years have passed, they are changed.

"It was an episode that ripped apart our delusion that we were safe from all that," said Gerald R. Smith, a 63-year-old historian who works out of the Broome County

MASSACRE, Page A13

'Those of us who were here, it will never leave our minds.'

DAVID STARK, *retired teacher and principal in Binghamton*

'I'm sickened that another group of innocent people will go through what we did.'

DR. JEFFREY KING, *whose mother died in the 2009 attack*

'The impulse to do something holy in the face of something evil has dissipated. We're jaded. We're used to it.'

ARTHUR M. SUGGS, *pastor, First Congregational Church*



Kevin Young, poetry editor at The New Yorker.

In rising, he held fast to his dreams

Young lands top poetry perch

By Joseph P. Kahn

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five years ago, Kevin Young was a standout Harvard College senior and a soon-to-be published poet. In a 1992 Harvard Crimson profile, Young mused about joining the literary establishment one day.

"Don't we have to change the establishment?" wondered Young, a member of the legendary African-American poets' group known as the Dark Room Collective. "Even if we all published in The New Yorker, would that be the point?"

That was then. In March, the 47-year-old

POET, Page A10

Temperatures in Boston hit 23 degrees Saturday morning, making it the coldest Nov. 11. **B2.**

President Trump said he believes President Vladimir Putin is sincere in his denials of interference in the election. **A2.**

Navigating the 2018 Medicare drug plan options isn't easy, but failing to do your homework might be costly. **Business, G1.**

Gray matter

Sunday: Not as cold, cloudy. High: 42-47. Low: 33-38.

Monday: Cloudy, rainy. High: 41-46. Low: 33-38.

High tide: 5:55 a.m. 6:16 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:31 Sunset: 4:25

Complete report, **B15**

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com

VOL. 292, NO. 135

*

Suggested retail price \$4.50





You fought for the American dream.

Now let us help you achieve it.

Special Business Loans for Veterans and their families.

Apply now at CenturyBank.com

Century Bank.
Our family's bank. And yours.

CenturyBank.com
(866) 823-6887

Equal Housing Lender/Member FDIC

Allston • Andover • Beverly • Boston • Braintree • Brookline • Burlington • Cambridge • Chestnut Hill • Everett • Lynn • Malden • Medford • Newton • Peabody • Quincy • Salem • Somerville • Wellesley • Winchester • Woburn